GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3836
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RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of agricultural research and development in the country as compared to that in the developed countries;

(b) the details of the steps taken to accelerate the Research and Development activities for increased productivity and quality of agricultural products in view of the growing population of the country;

(c) whether an agreement has been signed between India and United States for mutual cooperation in agricultural research; and

(d) if so, whether such an agreement is likely to make Indian agriculture vulnerable to the misuse of patented seeds by United States based companies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): The National Agricultural Research System comprising of 95 ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) institutes and 42 State Agricultural Universities, is one of the largest in the world.The XI Plan outlay for agricultural research has been more than doubled by Planning Commission over Xth Plan and is approved for Rs.12,023 crore with an additionality of Rs.500 crore under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana for location-specific research.During 2000, India spent 0.34% of total public spending on agriculture as compared to Japan (3.62%), USA (6.25%) and all developed countries (2.36%).In 2005-06, India spent 0.62% of AGDP on agricultural R&D.The Department has oriented research agenda through medium and long term programmes addressing production to consumption system research,sustainable livelihood security in disadvantaged area and basic and strategic research.The other initiatives undertaken by ICAR include production and availability of quality seed;organic farming;climate change;molecular breeding;hybrid technology;water management;resource conservation technology etc.For dissemination of regionally differentiated technologies,ICAR has documented `State-wise Technologies for Higher Agricultural Growth`.To address the issues of intellectual property rights (IPR) in the patent regime, guidelines on IPR have been put in place.

(c) India signed an agreement on `Indo-US Knowledge Initiative in Agriculture` during 2006 for mutual cooperation in agricultural research to explore and work on mutually reinforcing priority areas of agricultural education, research service and commercial linkages with initial focus on education and learning resources; food processing, use of by-products and bio-fuels, biotechnology and water management.The primary focus is on spending their own funds in their own countries with information and scientist exchange.

(d) No, Sir.